

SENATOR KOCH: Senator Chambers, the people of Omaha, right now they don't realize it but the school system, if they had to raise that much money from property tax would be subject to 15 mills increase just to do nothing more than replace their present state aid, that is what it amounts to.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Koch, are you telling me, what are you telling me about the mill levy in Omaha if this bill doesn't pass, if it had not passed?

SENATOR KOCH: I'm saying if they lost every dollar of state aid they'd have to go to 15 mills in the property tax to get that money.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But nonpassage of this wouldn't cause them to lose every dollar of state aid, would it? This is an increase over what they currently have.

SENATOR KOCH: I'm merely saying there is relief on property tax every time we give schools state aid, it's a fact.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But you don't think that with your ability and Senator Lewis' ability, he's a teacher, could make people understand that by voting for this bill they're going to get property tax relief? You couldn't show them that?

SENATOR KOCH: Senator Chambers, I don't have any chance to visit all over the state with people.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you Senator Koch. Members of the Legislature, it's clear that the people don't see this bill as a property tax relief measure or they would come to it running. They see through it because they are the recipients of the inefficiencies and ineptitudes and ineffectiveness of the public school system. Their children come home unable to read. If you had one or two children in a school who had a problem you could say the children have the problem. But when it is uniform throughout the state that there are problems with children being properly taught, the fault can be placed in the schools. This is why the people are not in favor of giving more money without any restrictions or requirements for accountability to the public school systems. They see themselves being ripped off and the teachers making continued demands without producing a better product. They have a higher standard on the assembly line at General Motors....

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: One minute Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...than they have in the public school system in Nebraska. If you were supposed to turn a bolt clockwise, and I've said this many times, but repetition is a good teaching method, and you always turn it counter-clockwise, and they can't persuade you to turn it clockwise, you don't have your job anymore. But as a teacher you can fail miserably time, after time, after time and not only do you keep your job, but you get raises. I think this is the worst waste of money that has happened in the Legislature this session.